

Residents Help Measure Air Quality in the Treasure Valley



DEQ and a dozen local residents are partnering to study ozone concentrations throughout the Treasure Valley.

Ozone is a gas formed when nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) combine in the presence of heat and sunlight. When formed at ground level, ozone is an air pollutant that can affect public health, particularly people with respiratory conditions. The Treasure Valley is a prime setting for formation of ozone in the hot, sunny days of summer.

DEQ tracks ozone pollution using three monitors situated in the Treasure Valley. To meet federal requirements, monitors should be sited to accurately reflect highest exposures to the general population.



Under this project, residents throughout the valley will be provided with ozone sampling devices for placement in their yards and conduct twice-weekly sampling for a two-month period beginning in July. Data collected by the community volunteers will be used to test the accuracy of the locations of the permanent ozone monitors and improve air quality sampling throughout the valley.

To learn more, contact Mike Toole at DEQ (208) 373-0104.